Resolution of Working Group Two on
Emerging Issues (Item 6), Means of Implementation (Item 9) and UNFF Trust
Fund (Item 12)
(As adopted during the last session of UNFF10 on Saturday 20 April 2013)

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling the ECOSOC resolution E/2006/49 and its paragraph 32 in which the Forum decided that the
effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests will be reviewed in 2015 and that on this basis a
full range of options will be considered including a legally binding on all types of forests, strengthening the
current arrangement, continuation of the current arrangement and other options;

Recalling further the multi-year programme of work adopted in 2007 (ECOSOC resolution 2007/42), in
which the eleventh session of the Forum is mandated to discuss the overall theme of “Forests: progress,
challenges and the way forward for the international arrangement” as well as its three themes, and
recognizing the need to make necessary preparations to enable the Forum to take an informed decision at
the eleventh session of the UNFF;

Recalling further the provisions of the resolution of the UNFF9 special session, in which the tenth session
of UNFF is mandated to make a decision on financing sustainable forest management, as well as the
UNFF9 Ministerial Declaration in which the Ministers committed to take a meaningful decision on forest
financing at UNFF10;

Recalling also the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), “The
Future We Want”;

Recalling the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on
Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests; the Rio Declaration of
Environment and Development, which set forth principles including, inter alia, principle 7 on common but
differentiated responsibilities; chapter 11 of Agenda 21; the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable
Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; the non-
legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the outcome document of the United Nations
Conference on Sustainable Development – “The Future We Want”;

Emphasizing the importance of aid effectiveness and recalling also paragraph 252 of the outcome document
of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the resolution 67/199 of the General
Assembly;

Emphasizing the significance of the discussions on the outcome of the United Nations Conference on
development agenda and on the review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests;

Stressing that despite concerted efforts over several decades forests continue to be lost and degraded at an
alarming rate, threatening the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

1. Reiterates the vital role and significant contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests for achieving sustainable development and in addressing the complex and interconnected global challenges related to economic and social development, poverty eradication, environmental sustainability, food security and agriculture, energy, water, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, combating desertification and land degradation, conservation of biodiversity, watershed protection and disaster risk reduction;

2. Recognizes the importance of achieving the four global objectives on forests, and that failure to better conserve and sustainably manage all types of forests may put at risk the achievement of other internationally agreed development goals, inter alia, those related to food security, water, biodiversity, climate change, poverty alleviation, energy and human well-being;

3. Requests the Forum’s Secretariat and invites CPF member organizations to promote the message of the importance of forests in the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015/ post-2015 development agenda.

4. Encourages Member States to fully integrate forests into the discussions on the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015/ post-2015 development agenda, taking into account the vital role and significant contributions of the conservation and sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests for achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication;

Review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests

5. Decides, pursuant to ECOSOC resolution 2006/49, that the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests will be reviewed in 2015, and that on this basis a full range of options will be considered, including a legally binding instrument on all types of forests, strengthening the current arrangement, continuation of the current arrangement and other options. This shall include review of the following elements:

   a) Past performance of the UNFF and its processes including AHEGs, CLIs, as well as future options for the UNFF;

   b) The NLBI and other options referenced in the aforementioned ECOSOC resolution, including progress towards achieving the four GOFs. This should include a review of the relationship of the NLBI with international conventions that have a bearing on the Forum’s mandate;

   c) The Forum’s Secretariat;

   d) Both the CPF and its contributions to the work of the Forum, and related activities by individual CPF member organisations in support of the Forum;

   e) Means of Implementation for the NLBI and relevant subsequent resolutions, and the Facilitative Process in this regard;

6. **Further decides** that this review shall include three components that have the mandates set out in the annex to this resolution:

   a) Submissions by countries, the CPF and member organizations of the CPF and other relevant organizations, relevant regional and sub-regional forest-related mechanisms, institutions, instruments, organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders;

   b) An independent assessment of the IAF;

   c) Open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group on the IAF 2015.

7. **Also decides** that the review shall take into account relevant ECOSOC resolutions and the MYPOW. The review needs to be forward-looking and informative, using evidence based analysis of the strengths and shortcomings of working modalities, and outcomes of the IAF at global, regional, and national levels in its member states, with a view to inform decisions at UNFF11.

8. **Decides** to establish an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group on the IAF 2015 to conduct no more than two meetings prior to UNFF11, subject to availability of extra-budgetary resources. The AHEG shall undertake a review of the performance and effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests within the context of ECOSOC Resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49, the attainment of the MYPOW and to put forth a set of recommendations providing a strategic direction on function and institutional arrangement of the IAF for the period beyond 2015;

9. **Recommends** that countries nominate experts with the required institutional knowledge on the UNFF and related processes to attend the AHEG;

10. **Expresses** appreciation for contributions made towards the work of the UNFF and **strongly urges** voluntary contributions to support the review process of the IAF as laid out in the five paragraphs above;

11. **Invites** countries, organisations and major groups that organise CLIs, RLIs and OLIs to provide information, in a timely manner, to the Forum’s Secretariat on their financial contributions to those initiatives, for inclusion in the Secretary General’s Report on the agenda item on Enhanced Cooperation and Policy Coordination.

**Trust Fund**

12. **Calls upon** international and bilateral donors and other countries in a position to do so to provide financial support to the Forum Trust Fund in order to support the participation of developing countries with priority to LDCs, Africa and SIDS, as well as of countries with economies in transition, in accordance with paragraph 40 of ECOSOC Resolution E/2011/42, in the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group and to enable the Forum’s Secretariat to carry out its intersessional activities within its mandate, including outstanding issues from past sessions, with priority to those requested by the Forum in its tenth session; and in this regard, requests the Forum’s
Secretariat, when using resources of the Trust Fund, to carry out its activities in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, and to report on the use of the Trust Fund at its eleventh session.

**Means of Implementation**

13. *Acknowledges* with appreciation the significant inputs that were provided as the result of the intersessional work on forest financing, including the 2012 forest finance study of the CPF, the report of the CPF Organisation-Led Initiative on forest finance and the report of the second meeting of the open ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group on forest financing, the Facilitative Process, and related CLIs as well as the views of Member States at UNFF10;

14. *Takes note* of the AGF report, which acknowledges that significant progress has been made towards the achievement of the fourth global objective on forests, but also acknowledges that with reference to financial flows for sustainable forest management, there are significant limitations in data collection, as well as thematic and geographical gaps, and with respect to the amount and distribution of finance for different types of forests and for specific groups of countries;

15. *Recognizes* that the architecture for forest financing has evolved considerably since previous UNFF sessions and that a number of new financing instruments and mechanisms have emerged that address thematic elements of SFM to varying degree, and emphasizes the need for better coordination across these different instruments and mechanisms as a priority;

16. *Reiterates* further that there is no single solution to address all of the needs in financing forests, and a combination of actions is required at all levels, by all stakeholders and from all sources, public and private, domestic and international, bilateral and multilateral.

**Actions at all levels**

17. *Invites* Member States, the donor community and other relevant stakeholders as appropriate to:

   a) Review and as needed improve forest-related legislation, strengthen forest law enforcement, promote good governance at all levels in order to support sustainable forest management, to create an enabling environment for forest investment and to combat and eradicate illegal practices, as well as to promote secure land tenure, in accordance with national legislation, policies and priorities.

   b) Provide enhanced resources to address thematic, geographic and data gaps in forest financing, and increase financing for the implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI);

   c) Strengthen cooperation in the areas of forest-related finance, trade, transfer of technology, as well as capacity building, and improve access to and efficiency of finance for sustainable forest management;

   d) Consider using a variety of approaches, including market-based approaches, to develop and promote production and consumption of forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested according to domestic legislation as a means to increase revenues for sustainable forest management, and strengthen international cooperation in this regard.
**National actions**

18. *Invites also* Member States to:

   a) Integrate sustainable forest management into national development plans and strategies, sectoral policies, programmes and investments, decision-making processes, taking into account the NLBI on all types of forests;

   b) Incorporate in national forest programmes or their equivalent, a combination of financing approaches, including, inter alia, development of national forest financing strategies or their equivalent, the creation of national forest funds, collection of SFM financing data, according to their own circumstances and capacities;

   c) Strengthen efforts to identify the monetary and non-monetary values of forest goods and services, including by reflecting these values in national budgets and accounts, as appropriate, consistent with national policies, priorities and legislation;

   d) Promote the development of both market and non-market-based approaches to address sustainable forest management in a holistic, comprehensive and integrated manner to guide humanity towards living in harmony with nature;

   e) Mobilize financing for all types of forests and trees outside of forests from all sources including from other sectors at the national level, by applying a cross-sectoral and cross-institutional approach;

   f) Harness the potential of the private sector to finance SFM as appropriate by:

      i) Promoting the use of public-private partnerships for SFM;

      ii) Providing a policy environment that encourages the use of innovative financing mechanisms, recognizing the value of forest ecosystems and the services they provide, consistent with national policies, priorities and legislation.

**Regional actions**

19. *Calls* upon relevant regional and sub-regional organizations, processes and networks to develop or support SFM financing, technology transfer and capacity-building initiatives, and invites donors, multilateral and regional financial institutions and other stakeholders to support these efforts;

20. *Invite* countries and relevant CPF member organizations to continue facilitating regional and other processes, especially in low forest cover countries, SIDS, LDCs and Africa, in support of the implementation of the NLBI and the overall theme of UNFF11.

**Actions at the international level**
21. **Invites** international financial institutions with forest financing programmes to further consider ways to simplify and streamline procedures, consistent with their mandates, in order to improve access to and efficiency in the use of their funding;

22. **Welcomes** the development of the Sustainable Forest Management Strategy for the Global Environment Facility’s sixth replenishment period (2014-2018) and in that context, **invites** the GEF to consider ways to strengthen its support for sustainable forest management of all types of forests through, *inter alia*:

   a) Enhancing mobilization of financial resources for the GEF SFM strategy in the sixth, and subsequent replenishment periods;

   b) Considering the options of establishing a new focal area on forests during the next Global Environment Facility replenishment and continuing and seeking to improve existing forest finance modalities taking into account the results of the ongoing evaluation of SFM/REDD+ investment programme;

   c) **Invites** the GEF to improve and simplify access to its current and potential funding for SFM;

   d) **Also invites** the GEF to continue and strengthen the dissemination of information on financing for SFM to UNFF focal points directly, and indirectly through the national GEF focal points, Forum’s Secretariat, as well as the GEF implementing agencies;

   e) **Further invites** the GEF Secretariat to provide information to UNFF sessions on the mobilization of financial resources and funds dedicated to the sustainable management of all types of forests.

23. **Encourage** member states to take full advantage of the considerable resources still available in the existing GEF-5 SFM/REDD+ Incentive Mechanism, and invite the GEF to make efforts to simplify access to this funding within the current cycle;

24. **Invites** multilateral financial institutions to give special consideration to developing countries, particularly least developed countries and those countries with dryland forests and the special needs of low forest cover countries, small island developing states, high forest cover countries and African countries in accessing funds;

25. **Invites** donors to continue to provide resources to the Facilitative Process to carry out all of its functions, as set out in the report of the Special Session of UNFF9 on the Means of Implementation for Sustainable Forest Management in October 2009 contained in document E/2009/118;

26. **Invites** relevant CPF member organizations to consider strengthening their efforts to collect and facilitate access to data on forest financial flows, and thereby address data gaps in forest financing in a systematic, coordinated and coherent manner;

27. **Welcomes** the work of the FAO on collecting data about national public funding for sustainable forest management as part of the Forest Resource Assessments, and encourages its further development;
28. *Invites* relevant CPF member organizations, in cooperation with the private sector, to gather and make available to the UNFF information about the scale of private sector investment flows for sustainable forest management;

29. *Invites* the forest-related conventions and mechanisms, as well as the multilateral and regional financial institutions, donors, and member states in a position to do so, to increase financing for sustainable forest management;

30. Decides to consider, as an integral element of the overall review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests 2015, as outlined in paragraphs OP5 to OP10 of this resolution and its annex, a full range of financing options and strategies, including the establishment of a voluntary global forest fund, in order to mobilize resources from all sources in support of sustainable forest management for all types of forests and trees outside forests.

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ANNEX

Pursuant to ECOSOC resolution 2006/49 and resolution 2000/35, the review of the effectiveness and efficiency, and the future direction of the IAF shall include the following interrelated components and activities:

a) Submissions by countries, the CPF and CPF member organizations and other relevant organizations, relevant regional and sub-regional forest-related mechanisms, institutions, instruments, organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders.

Countries, the CPF and CPF member organizations and other relevant organizations, relevant regional and sub-regional forest-related mechanisms, institutions, instruments, organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders are invited to submit views and proposals to the Forum’s Secretariat on the six key issues set out in paragraph 5 of the Resolution and the full range of options on the future International Arrangement on Forests. The Forum’s Secretariat is requested to ensure that documentation submitted pursuant to this paragraph is made available prior to AHEG. Based on the outcome of the first meeting of the AHEG, states, CPF, CPF member organizations, major groups and other stakeholders are invited to provide further submissions prior to a second meeting of the AHEG.

In providing views on the CPF, paragraph 8 of Resolution 2000/35 should be taken into account.

b) An independent assessment of the IAF

i) The objective and mandate of the independent assessment:

The objective of the independent assessment is to assist and inform the AHEG in preparing for UNFF11. The assessment shall analyze the achievements, relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the IAF since UNFF7, taking into account earlier developments. It shall assess impacts of work and sustainability of actions and makes recommendation for the future arrangement. The mandate of the independent assessment shall be to compile and analyse information and provide views and conclusions on the following:

1) Past performance of the UNFF and its processes including AHEGs, CLIs, as well as future options for the UNFF.

2) Review of the NLBI and other options referenced in the aforementioned ECOSOC resolutions, including progress towards achieving the four GOFs. This should include a review of the relationship of the NLBI with international conventions that have a bearing on the Forum’s mandate.

3) Review of the Forum’s Secretariat.

4) Review of both the CPF and its contributions to the work of the Forum, and related activities by individual CPF member organisations in support of the Forum


ii) Organization of the independent assessment

1) The independent assessment will comprise a small team of up to five independent experts. A list of candidates will be provided by the Bureau of the eleventh session to the Forum’s Secretariat. The UNFF11 Bureau will identify these experts taking into consideration competencies, including evaluation methodology expertise, as well as regional balance.

2) Terms of reference for the consultants will be developed by the Forum’s Secretariat in consultation with the UNFF11 Bureau.

3) The consultants will report on progress of their work to the UNFF11 Bureau.

4) The Forum’s Secretariat will develop the budget for the independent assessment.

5) The consultants will be required to submit an interim report for the consideration of the first meeting of the AHEG for IAF 2015 followed by the final report, which will be required prior to the second meeting of the AHEG for IAF2015.

c) Open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group on IAF 2015

The open ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group on IAF 2015 shall provide advice and input in support of the mandate of UNFF11; taking into consideration the outcomes of UNFF10, submissions as specified under 1 a), the topics presented in paragraph 5 of this resolution and the independent assessment on:

i) The international arrangement on forests (UNFF, Forum’s Secretariat and other CPF member organizations), the NLBI, and the contribution of forests to the achievement of the MDGs;

ii) The review of the performance and effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests;

iii) Assessment of the implementation of the NLBI and the achievement of the four global objectives on forests;

iv) A full range of options for the future of the international arrangement on forests for the consideration of UNFF11.

The AHEG on IAF 2015 will meet at a time and venue to be determined by the UNFF11 Bureau and communicated by the Forum’s Secretariat to member countries and organizations.

The AHEG on IAF 2015 shall report its conclusions and recommendations to the UNFF at its eleventh session for its consideration.